

5 October 1981
MAU-1065

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Austrian Bureau--September 1981

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The amount of copy we filed this month returned back to close to our "normal" 500,000 word count following the traditionally slack August vacation period. All sections increased their translated output, particularly our 2-man Polish unit which weighed in with over 60,000 words, the second highest in the bureau.

2. The bureau lost the services of senior Czech monitor [] for most of the month after she was hospitalized for a heart ailment. She is currently at home on extended bedrest and does not expect to return to work until later in October at the earliest. During her absence, we had to rob Peter to pay Paul by shifting []-who agreed to postpone his own treatment for a heart problem--from the German to the Czech section to help out.

3. The autumn time change on 27 September brought us back to one hour ahead of GMT. The Bulgarian and Albanian monitors were the odd ones out when they had to juggle their schedules for one week since Sofia and Tirana decided to make the change on 4 October.

B. Communications

1. Continued trouble getting through to our Pirmasens ASC by phone during Autodin outages--high again this month at nearly 18 hours--led us to initiate a new system in which we use the VCVC to send service messages via London informing Pirmasens of our problems and asking them to take action. The new system was used twice during the month, freeing the editor from long frustrating delays trying to raise Pirmasens tech control by phone.

2. Our efficient and hardworking teletypist team won another Pirmasens performance certificate this month, their eighth this year.

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C. Lateral Services

1. Harlan Moen, who has assumed Bill Davis' press responsibilities for the MBFR delegation, visited us on 29 September for an orientation tour. As a result of his visit, the bureau informed Chief/L&R of the personnel change and passed along an update for the MBFR requirement. Moen has also promised to get passes for our foreign nationals to attend some of the plenary sessions.

2. During the month, the bureau assisted the embassy by videorecording two local TV discussion programs, one for ICA on the Austrian debate over whether to purchase the F-16 or the latest Mirage and the other for the DEA chief on the flow of narcotics through Europe.

D. Technical

1. Arthur Hampson of the BBC's engineering section installed a recently repaired Racal remote receiver during his 11-14 September visit. During his stay, he also discussed the current VCVC technical operation and the proposed 10 kHz music line with bureau engineer [redacted]

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2. By the end of the month, it appeared that the bureau would soon be getting a NEFAX 3500 facsimile machine manufactured by Nippon Electric Company as a replacement for our present Siemens Hellfax equipment. Since it is impossible for the local NEC representative to provide us with a machine, London Bureau will be purchasing two machines per arrangement with ED, one for us and one for PMU.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Our newly hired Polish monitor, [redacted] visited the bureau on 18 September for a walk through by the bureau chief. [redacted] will be released by his current employer earlier than we originally thought and now plans to come aboard 16 November. Meanwhile, our efforts continue to fill our other additional vacant Polish slot.

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2. As far as our Yugoslav recruitment effort goes, we are now making arrangements to bring a promising candidate from Geneva to Vienna to be tested. Another candidate, who also responded to the ad placed by London Bureau in THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, unfortunately failed to pass the test given by the BBC for us.

3. As a result of [redacted] visit earlier in the month, action was initiated at month's end to close our Treasury

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imprest fund and establish a revolving fund through the embassy cashier. We hope this will simplify our procedures and reduce [] administrative chores.

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B. Building and Grounds

1. The various work crews digging holes in the streets all over town this summer to check on the gas lines finally got to the bureau early in the month and promptly flunked us for worn out pipes. As though it weren't bad enough demanding us to sidestep all the craters now pockmarking Poetzleinsdorferstrasse, the city fathers presented us with another bad case of gas in the form of a whopping \$14,000 estimate to replace our leaky system. A bit of hard bargaining followed, but we couldn't get them below \$8,000 which didn't even include putting our driveway back together. Because of the excessive cost, we have given up on the gas--used for stoves and water heaters in the bureau and in the custodian's basement apartment--in favor of electrical appliances which will be installed in October.

2. A regional security officer [] visited the bureau on 11 September and requested that we obtain two additional quick destruct burn barrels to go with the one we already have. The new barrels will be placed on the flat concrete roof area just outside Main Radio.

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3. As part of our efforts to spruce up the bureau's appearance, we have gotten contractor estimates for repairing the patio area, painting parts of the first and third floor and laying new carpet in the foyer and the Yugoslav section. We are hoping to get all this redecoration completed in time for the Director's scheduled visit in late October, but the odds don't favor our meeting our schedule.

C. Other

Although it's not going to be a sporty Lotus or Porsche, the bureau's new car--an Opel Rekord wagon ordered on 3 September and scheduled for delivery in November--will have a good heating system that works without prayers or imprecations as well as an automatic transmission, two luxuries sadly lacking in its VW predecessor. We'll miss those cold days stamping our feet to keep warm or crawling around trying to locate a gear shift knob that playfully refused to stay attached to its handle.

III. VISITS

A. To the bureau:

1. B&F Chief [] 9-13 September
2. BBC Engineer [] 11-14 September
3. Career Management Officer [] 16-20 September
4. MBFR Officer Harlan Moen

B. From the bureau:

Senior Yugoslav Monitor [] to HQs to attend an
FSN orientation tour, 14-18 September.

FOR THE CHIEF, AUSTRIAN BUREAU

Deputy Chief
FBIS Austrian Bureau

Attachments:

Publishable Wordage Report
Production Report
Nonstaff Personnel Report

cc: Chief, FBIS London Bureau

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